

Gelligaer Urban District Council.



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# REPORT

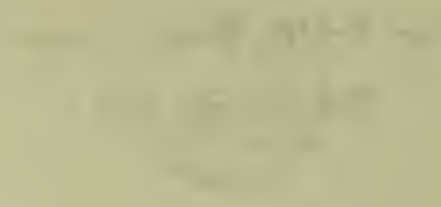
OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

and

**Senior Public Health Inspector**

**For the year 1958**



# TRUST

THE TRUST FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE  
CITY OF NEW YORK

IN THE  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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Public Health Department  
Council Offices  
Hengoed, Glam.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Telephone : Hengoed 2245

Mrs. Haman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1958.

The Report is prepared on lines indicated in Circular 22/58  
(Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

The Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. T. P. Thomas,  
is included.

In April, 1958, Mr. D. G. Vallis vacated the post of District  
Public Health Inspector, having been appointed Senior Public Health Inspector  
at Cwmbran. Mr. Vallis gave many years of valuable service to the Authority.

As judged by the Table of Vital Statistics, the health of the  
community has been satisfactory.

Infant Mortality was low during the year ; the Mortality Rate  
being less than ever before.

During the year, the common Infectious Diseases, including  
Influenza and Poliomyelitis, were either very little, or not at all, in  
evidence. But, we have no precise knowledge concerning the positive health of  
the community. How many people visited their Doctor or a Hospital, or the  
Chemist, during the year ? How many suffered from 'Nerves', or Bronchitis,  
or 'Colds', or Debility, or Rheumatism, and carried on despite the aches and  
pains ?

In the section on Housing, it is seen that no progress has been  
achieved during the year. I outline the proposed housing programme for  
the next decade. It is to be hoped that nothing will prevent the plans  
becoming homes.



Caravans are not a prominent feature in the Area; a small number only are to be found. The Council has considered the establishment of a Caravan Park, but the expense of providing the necessary amenities was considered too great in view of the small demand.

Foot and Mouth Disease occurred in the Bedlinog Area during the year. The Council has made extensive and expensive effort, by way of fencing and machinery, to keep animals out, and potential danger in. The determination displayed by mountain sheep to search refuse tips for food is remarkable.

The incidence of Tuberculosis was slightly less than in previous years. Early in 1959, the infectious nature of this disease was made evident in one part of the Area, where a number of children were found to be infected. This disturbing incident will be dealt with in my next Report.

The Council, during the year, again considered Smoking and Cancer, and decided to ban Smoking in Council Meetings. The Members of the Council have loyally upheld this decision. The ill effects of excessive smoking are now well recognised, and I look forward to the time when smoking in public places will be regarded as anti-social.

The Public Health Inspectors have continued their efforts to promote the hygienic handling of food. The careless disposal of refuse and empty milk bottles remains a problem.

For some years, Gelligaer has experienced ample employment and prosperity. The declining demand for coal has not seriously affected the Area, but the Council has been alive to the possibility of difficulties ahead. Efforts are being made to attract new industries to the Rhymney Valley.

I wish, again, to thank the Members and Chief Officers for help and encouragement so freely given.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,

W. BOWEN OWEN

Medical Officer of Health





Contributions in respect of salaries are made by the County Council towards the emoluments of the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors ; also included is the amount paid by the Rhymney and Sirhowy Valleys Hospital Management Committee for part-time clerical assistance given by Miss Chilton at the Gelligaer Hospital :-

<u>Service</u>	<u>Period of one year ending</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salaries of Medical Officer and Public Health Inspectors and clerk.	31st. March, 1958	£ 1,835

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GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT

Population	-	36,300
Total acreage	-	16,772
Rateable value	-	£ 198,813
Product of ld. rate	-	£680

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GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman	-	Hopkin Lewis, J.P.
Vice - Chairman	-	Mrs. A. Haman

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

W. H. D. Bennett	William Jones, J.P.
D. S. Blatchford, J.P.	Alderman W. A. Hancock, J.P., C.C.
E. E. Burgess	W. H. Lee, C.C.
A. E. Carey	W. J. Payne
W. H. Coleman	William Poyntz
D. B. Cooke	H. L. Roberts
John Davies	G. T. Richards, J.P.
W. E. Davies	K. G. Turner
H. V. Edwards	A. Williams
H. V. James	Cledwen Williams
W. R. James	Douglas Williams
J. H. Jones	H. J. Williams

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman	-	D. B. Cooke
Vice - Chairman	-	G. T. Richards, J.P.

W. H. D. Bennett  
D. S. Blatchford, J.P.  
W. H. Coleman  
W. E. Davies  
Mrs. A. Haman  
W. A. Hancock, J.P., C.C.  
H. V. James  
W. R. James  
J. H. Jones  
W. Lee, C.C.  
Hopkin Lewis, J.P.



CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council	-	D. W. C. Morgan, Ll.B.
Treasurer and Accountant	-	Rhys Williams - retired September, 1958. W. Hicks, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A. - Commenced September, 1958.
Engineer and Surveyor	-	W. T. Luke, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.
Housing Manager	-	G. Lloyd Williams
Omnibus Manager	-	W. H. Collins

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	-	W. Bowen Owen, J.P., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	T. P. Thomas, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.H.
District Public Health Inspector	-	E. G. Rawlings, A.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.H.
Rodent Officer	-	T. J. Morris
Clerical Staff	-	L. Chilton.





GLAMORGAN ( ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY) - VITAL STATISTICS 1958

		Estimated population 1958	BIRTHS			DEATHS			INFANT MORTALITY		NEO NATAL MORTALITY	
			Number of Births	Rate per 1,000 population		Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population		Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 weeks	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
England and Wales			738,323	16.4		526,792	11.7		16,620	22.50	-	-
Administrative County		743,100	12,243	16.48	16.32	8,829	11.88	13.66	353	28.83	251	20.50
Urban Districts		535,600	8,841	16.51	16.18	6,366	11.89	13.79	265	29.97	189	21.38
Rural Districts		207,500	3,402	16.40	16.73	2,463	11.87	13.18	88	25.87	62	18.22
Health Division												
Constituent Dist.												
Aberdare & Mountain Ash	Aberdare Urban	39,860	564	14.15	14.57	591	14.83	15.27	16	28.37	13	23.05
	Mountain Ash Urban	30,540	505	16.54	16.37	345	11.30	13.67	24	47.52	16	31.68
Caerphilly & Gellisaer	Caerphilly Urban	37,570	701	18.66	17.73	380	10.11	12.84	16	22.82	11	15.69
	Gellisaer Urban	36,300	647	17.82	18.35	384	10.58	13.33	18	27.82	15	23.18
Mid Glamorgan	Bridgend Urban	14,580	258	17.70	16.82	170	11.66	12.48	6	23.26	5	19.38
	Maesteg Urban	22,720	386	16.99	16.99	243	10.70	13.48	12	31.09	7	18.13
	Ogmore & Garw Ur.	22,070	385	17.44	17.44	252	11.42	13.82	11	28.57	9	23.38
	Porthcawl Urban	10,500	155	14.76	14.61	160	15.24	14.02	2	12.90	2	12.90
	Fenytont Rural	36,500	635	17.40	18.10	515	14.11	13.40	21	33.07	14	22.05
Neath and District	Neath M.B.	31,050	491	15.81	14.70	390	12.56	14.19	17	34.62	12	24.44
	Neath Rural	41,440	631	15.23	14.93	450	10.86	13.79	14	22.19	8	12.68
Pontypridd & Llantrisant	Llantrisant Rural	25,930	483	18.63	17.88	282	10.88	13.93	15	31.06	11	22.77
	Pontypridd Urban	37,550	579	15.42	14.80	472	12.57	13.58	14	24.18	12	20.73
Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg	Glyncoirwg Urban	9,900	205	20.71	20.30	104	10.51	15.03	7	34.15	5	24.39
	Port Talbot M.B.	48,380	1,002	20.71	19.67	527	10.89	14.37	38	37.92	27	26.95
South East Glamorgan	Barry M.B.	42,160	745	17.67	16.96	440	10.44	11.48	21	28.19	13	17.45
	Cardiff Rural	40,830	678	16.61	16.94	472	11.56	10.64	16	23.60	13	19.17
	Cowbridge M.B.	1,000	11	11.00	11.44	14	14.00	14.56	-	-	-	-
	Cowbridge Rural	19,050	358	18.79	20.86	133	6.98	12.15	10	27.93	7	19.55
	Fenarth Urban	19,280	307	15.92	15.76	247	12.81	11.66	7	22.80	6	19.54
West Glamorgan	Gower Rural	12,000	191	15.92	16.72	160	13.33	12.26	4	20.94	2	10.47
	Llchwyr Urban	25,740	319	12.39	12.64	290	11.27	13.19	8	25.08	6	18.81
	Pontardawe Rural	31,750	426	13.42	13.55	451	14.20	15.48	8	18.78	7	16.43
Rhondda	Rhondda M.B.	106,400	1,581	14.86	14.56	1,357	12.75	14.79	48	30.36	30	18.98





## EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Population						36, 300		
						<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live Births</u>								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	622	319	303
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	25	13	12
Total	...	...	...	...	...	647	332	315
<u>Still - Births</u>								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	22	10	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Total	...	...	...	...	...	22	10	12

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LIVE BIRTHS

1948	...	...	...	...	786
1949	...	...	...	...	759
1950	...	...	...	...	708
1951	...	...	...	...	631
1952	...	...	...	...	629
1953	...	...	...	...	664
1954	...	...	...	...	644
1955	...	...	...	...	672
1956	...	...	...	...	644
1957	...	...	...	...	667
1958	...	...	...	...	647

As a matter of interest, I give the following figures :-

BIRTHS

1901	...	...	...	...	717
1911	...	...	...	...	1720
1921	...	...	...	...	1363
1931	...	...	...	...	847
1941	...	...	...	...	733
1951	...	...	...	...	631



# INFANTILE MORTALITY

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The causes of Death in 1958 are tabulated below :-

AGE	Deaths occurring			
	At home		In Hospital	
	No.	Cause	No.	Cause
0 - 1 day	1	Prematurity	1	Prematurity
	1	Congenital Malform.	1	Cerebral Haem.
	1	Rhesus Incompatability	1	Spina Bifida
			2	Atalectasis
1 - 2 days	-		1	Prematurity
			1	Birth abnormality
2 - 3 days	-		1	Asphyxia Neon.
3 - 4 days	-		-	
4 - 5 days	-		-	
5 - 6 days	-		-	
6 - 7 days	-		-	
1 - 2 weeks	-		1	Cerebral Haem.
			1	Congenital heart
2 - 3 weeks	1	Convulsions	1	Prematurity
3 - 4 weeks	-		-	
1 - 2 months	1	Pneumonia	1	Broncho-Pneumonia
2 - 3 months	-		-	
3 - 4 months	-		-	
4 - 5 months	-		-	
5 - 6 months	-		1	Meningitis
6 - 7 months	-		-	
7 - 8 months	-		-	
8 - 9 months	-		-	
9 - 10 months	-		-	
10 - 11 months	-		-	
11 - 12 months	-		-	
	5		13	



INFANTILE MORTALITY

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year	-	18	12	6
Legitimate	-	18	12	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

As shown in the Table of Vital Statistics, the Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births in England and Wales was 22.5 ; in the Administrative County it was 28.83 ; in Gelligaer it was 27.82.

I append a Table showing the Infant Mortality Rate in Gelligaer for the past ten years. This Table shows a considerable fluctuation and reflects instability in conditions which affect the health of the new born. The Rate for 1958 is the best yet recorded.

1949	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	36. 00
1950	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	36. 72
1951	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	28. 53
1952	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	31. 80
1953	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	31. 63
1954	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	45. 03
1955	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	49. 11
1956	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	48. 14
1957	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	32. 98
1958	-	Infant Mortality Rate	-	27. 82



DEATHS

Deaths during the year numbered 384 - Males 225, Females 159 .

1949	-	422
1950	-	406
1951	-	482
1952	-	433
1953	-	389
1954	-	437
1955	-	449
1956	-	422
1957	-	405
1958	-	384

MATERNAL DEATHS

There were no deaths in which pregnancy was a factor.

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In considering the Registrar General's Returns, there are points of interest. Following, there is a Table showing the number of Deaths in each of three age groups for the past ten years. In considering the age at Death, it is interesting to note how many people live beyond the allotted span of three score years and ten.

Age at Death	Male	Female
65 - 69 years	33	19
70 - 74 years	28	29
75 - 79 years	30	32
80 and over	40	34

A comparison of age at Death for the past ten years is shown :-

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
No. occurring before age of one	27	26	18	20	21	29	33	31	22	18
No. occurring between 1 and 65	150	150	193	144	145	144	135	139	136	121
No. occurring upward of 65	245	230	271	269	223	264	281	252	247	245

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DEATHS FROM CANCER

The number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer was 64.

1948	-	44
1949	-	54
1950	-	55
1951	-	60
1952	-	64
1953	-	54
1954	-	57
1955	-	52
1956	-	68
1957	-	43
1958	-	64

CANCER OF THE LUNG

1950	-	5	- all males
1951	-	13	- 11 males, 2 females
1952	-	6	- all males
1953	-	4	- 3 males, 1 female
1954	-	3	- all males
1955	-	11	- all males
1956	-	11	- 7 males, 4 females
1957	-	7	- all males
1958	-	8	- all males

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Deaths from Violent Causes occurred in 17 instances.

Among these : - Accidents in the Home caused 3 Deaths.

Accidents at Work caused 7 Deaths

Motor Vehicle Accidents caused 4 Deaths.

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CAUSE OF DEATH

The Chief Causes of Death were as follows :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases ...	67	55	122
Deaths from Cancer ... ..	35	29	64
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	15	29	44
Deaths from Measles ... ..	-	1	1
Deaths from Bronchitis ... ..	34	6	40
Deaths from Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis	-	1	1
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	-	1
Deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	4	-	4
Deaths from Poliomyelitis ... ..	Nil	-	-
Deaths from Influenza ... ..	-	1	1
Deaths from Pneumonia ... ..	9	4	13
Deaths from Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	16	-	16
Deaths from Violent Causes ... ..	12	5	17

Thus :-

Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	-	122 Deaths
Cancer ... ..	-	64 Deaths
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	-	44 Deaths
Bronchitis ... ..	-	40 Deaths
Violent Causes ... ..	-	17 Deaths

are the chief causes of Mortality.

There is an increase in the number of Deaths from Cancer. Leukaemia is a disease attracting attention; there were two deaths from this condition. Coronary Disease is another disease that is attracting much attention. During the year, 29 males and 14 females died from this disease.



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASESNOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - AGES DISTRIBUTION

Disease	Total	0- 1	1- 2	2- 3	3- 4	4- 5	5- 15	15- 25	25- 45	45- 65	65- 75	75 +
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	3	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	97	6	6	20	12	5	46	2	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	17	3	-	-	-	-	5	1	3	4	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The incidence of Infectious Disease was small during the Year.

There were 97 cases of Measles, as compared with 666 cases in 1957

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TUBERCULOSIS

AGE GROUP	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
69 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	15	12	2	2	1	-	-	-

Total number of Deaths from Tuberculosis was 1. The number of Deaths of notified cases was nil; the number of Deaths of non-notified cases was 1. The non-notified case was found at post-mortem examination.

INCIDENCE AND DEATHS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>INCIDENCE</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
1949	51	26
1950	54	19
1951	38	13
1952	44	9
1953	34	10
1954	54	4
1955	57	8
1956	33	8
1957	32	5
1958	30	1





IMMUNISATION

Prior to 1948, the only large scale prevention of Infectious Disease by inoculation was vaccination against Smallpox. In 1940, immunisation against Diphtheria was commenced in Gelligaer. A few years later, immunisation against Whooping Cough was introduced at the Welfare Clinics. In 1955, B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis was made available by the Local Health Authority. In 1956, another new preventive inoculation was made available - vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

Diphtheria Immunisation

1950	-	437
1951	-	483
1952	-	381
1953	-	417
1954	-	524
1955	-	474
1956	-	481
1957	-	259
1958	-	205

Smallpox Vaccination

		<u>Primary</u>	<u>Re-vaccination</u>
1950	-	38	18
1951	-	137	64
1952	-	152	26
1953	-	177	45
1954	-	150	6
1955	-	125	21
1956	-	124	5
1957	-	125	6
1958	-	153	9



B. C. G. Vaccination

In 1958, 378 children received B.C.G. vaccination.

Polio-myelitis Vaccination

Dr. Powell, the Divisional Medical Officer of the Glamorgan County Council, is unable to give information concerning Gelligaer in 1958, but supplies the information concerning Caerphilly and Gelligaer Division.

The vaccinations, carried out in the Division, and which relate to all groups of persons eligible, are as follows :-

Number who received one injection	- 828
Number who received two injections	- 6,659
Number who received boosters	- 5,650

I am indebted to Dr. Powell for all information concerning Vaccination and Immunisation.

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H O U S I N G

Mr. T. Luke, B.Sc., the Council's Surveyor and Engineer, has supplied the following information :-

	Permanent dwellings	Temporary dwellings
<u>By the Local Authority</u>		
No. of houses completed and occupied during 1958	-	-
No. partly completed during 1958	-	-
No. sanctioned but not commenced	-	-
Total number completed and occupied since 1918	1,236	100
<u>By Private Enterprise, Building Societies etc.</u>		
No. completed and occupied during 1958	4	-
No. partly completed during 1958	4	-
No. for which plans were passed but were not commenced during 1958	-	-

Mr. George Williams, the Council's Housing Manager, has supplied the following information :-

Number of families rehoused in 1958 - 33  
Including families in which Tuberculosis was a factor - 4

Waiting list for Council Houses at 31st. December 1958 :-

Total number of applicants - 906  
Families who are sub-tenants - 501

Of the sub-tenants:-

Families of man and wife and 1 child - 351  
Families of man and wife and two children - 150  
Applications from Old Age Pensioners - 74

As stated in my Report for 1957, the Council commenced a Slum Clearance Programme in 1956. Houses were being built on a new site in Pontlottyn in 1958, but none was occupied.

Rebuilding on the site of the demolished houses was not commenced during 1958.

Other sites in the Gelligaer Area have been earmarked for new housing sites - but no new building was commenced in 1958.



I append a table showing the number of new houses built in Gelligaer during recent years :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>By the Local Authority</u>	<u>By Private Enterprise</u>
1950	10	10
1951	104	6
1952	54	10
1953	92	83
1954	26	357
1955	6	12
1956	102	8
1957	8	8
1958	nil	4

In view of the demand for new houses, not only to house those families who have never enjoyed a home of their own, but also to rehouse those families whose present home is not fit for habitation, it must be confessed that the rate of building in Gelligaer has not been sufficient.

The Council's building programme - both immediate and long term - includes the following :-

Shingrig Site - 114 Units ; Old Folks' Bungalows 22 Units.

No. 1 Redevelopment Area Pontlottyn - 33 Units  
Fochriw - 22 Units.

The later programme includes :-

Gelligaer - 1st. phase	- 200 Units
Shingrig - 2nd. phase	- 2 Units
Gelligaer - 2nd. phase	- 186 Units
Pontlottyn redevelopment	- 175 Units
Old Folks' Bungalows	- ? 30 Units.

It is hoped that in five years, 475 Units will be occupied, and the remainder in another five years.

As the modern family is small - there are five hundred applicants with two children or less - as the demand from the aged is substantial ; it is not easy to forecast the most suitable type of home to provide. The Council has given much thought to this.





ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Conditions are similar to what they have been during the post war years.  
Measurement of pollution at Bargoed was continued during the year.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Total solids</u>
January	4 . 86 ins.	31 . 71 tons
February	6.. 39 ins.	32 . 98 tons
March	1 . 46 ins.	27 . 01 tons
April	0 . 96 ins.	13 . 64 tons
May	4 . 36 ins.	26 . 14 tons
June	4 . 47 ins.	19 . 74 tons
July	4 . 56 ins.	22 . 97 tons
August	5 . 05 ins.	25 . 26 tons
September	8 . 60 ins.	35 . 30 tons
October	5 . 93 ins.	32 . 34 tons
November	2 . 52 ins.	18 . 88 tons
December	4 . 99 ins.	43 . 71 tons

Total dust collected in 1959 - 327.53 tons.

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PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to Mr. W. H. James, B.Sc., A.M.Inst.C.E., Engineer to the Rhymney Valley Water Board, for the following report on the Public Water Supply in the Area :-

<u>Source</u>	<u>Results of Bacteriological Examination</u>		
	Satisfactory	Just above limit for satis. result.	Unsatisfactory
<u>RAW WATER :-</u>			
Rhymney Bridge	6	6	36
Deri	10	12	26
Taf Fechan	-	-	-
<u>Treated Water :-</u>			
Rhymney Bridge	40	5	3
Deri	42	16	2
Taf Fechan	46	2	-

No major works were carried out within the Gelligaer Area during 1958, and supplies generally were satisfactorily maintained throughout the year.

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In addition to the sampling carried out by the Rhymney Valley Water Board, your Public Health Inspectors continued to take samples of the supplies. Details are given in Mr. Thomas' report.

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SWIMMING POOL

The Council provides a large, modern swimming pool in the park at Bargoed. This pool is extensively used by the public, and for swimming instruction for school children. Occasionally, it becomes too popular, and it is difficult to keep the water in satisfactory condition. Minor alterations to the water circulation have been made in the past few years to improve the chlorination to all parts of the pool. A toddlers' pool is also provided, and is very popular.

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following Report :-

Samples taken in the Gelligaer Urban District by the County Sampling Officers during the year ended 31st. December, 1958 are as follows :-

Ground Almonds	- 5	Meat paste	- 4
Aspirins	- 1	Meat products (canned)	- 6
Baking powder	- 2	Milk	- 22
Bicarb. of Soda	- 2	Mince meat	- 3
Butter	- 7	Mint Sauce	- 1
Cake sponge mixture	- 12	Mustard	- 4
Cereals	- 1	Orange and Lemon Curd	- 2
Cheese Spread	- 2	Peel (mixed)	- 3
Chicken (minced)	- 2	Pepper	- 3
Chocolate Spread	- 1	Pickles	- 3
Cod Liver Oil	- 1	Pudding (canned)	- 1
Coffee and Chickory	- 1	Rice	- 1
Colouring	- 2	Salt	- 3
Condensed Milk	- 1	Salad Cream	- 2
Cornflour	- 1	Sauces	- 5
Cream	- 1	Shredded Beef Suet	- 6
Dessicated Coconut	- 3	Soft Drinks	- 9
Dessert Powder	- 2	Soup (canned)	- 5
Fish (canned)	- 7	Sweets	- 3
Flour	- 9	Table jelly	- 7
Fruit (canned)	- 2	Tapioca	- 1
Fruit (dried)	- 5	Tea	- 1
Glace Cherries	- 2	Vegetables (canned)	- 6
Gravy Browning	- 2	Vinegar	- 5
Honey	- 1	Vitamin tabs.	- 2
Ice Cream	- 4	Ground cinnamon	- 1
Jam	- 1	Ground ginger	- 1
Lard	- 1	Curry powder	- 1
Lentils	- 1	Cream of Tartar	- 1
Macaroni	- 1	Liquid Paraffin	- 1
Margarine	- 2		



M O R T U A R Y

The Council has continued to maintain a Mortuary. During the year, it was used on thirteen occasions.

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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was taken under Section 47 of the Act during the year.

A number of aged persons were visited during the year.

Associations such as the Old Age Pensioners, Darby and Joan, give enjoyment to many old folk who are ambulant, but the life of those confined to their homes, especially of those living alone, is both monotonous and lonely.

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F O O D

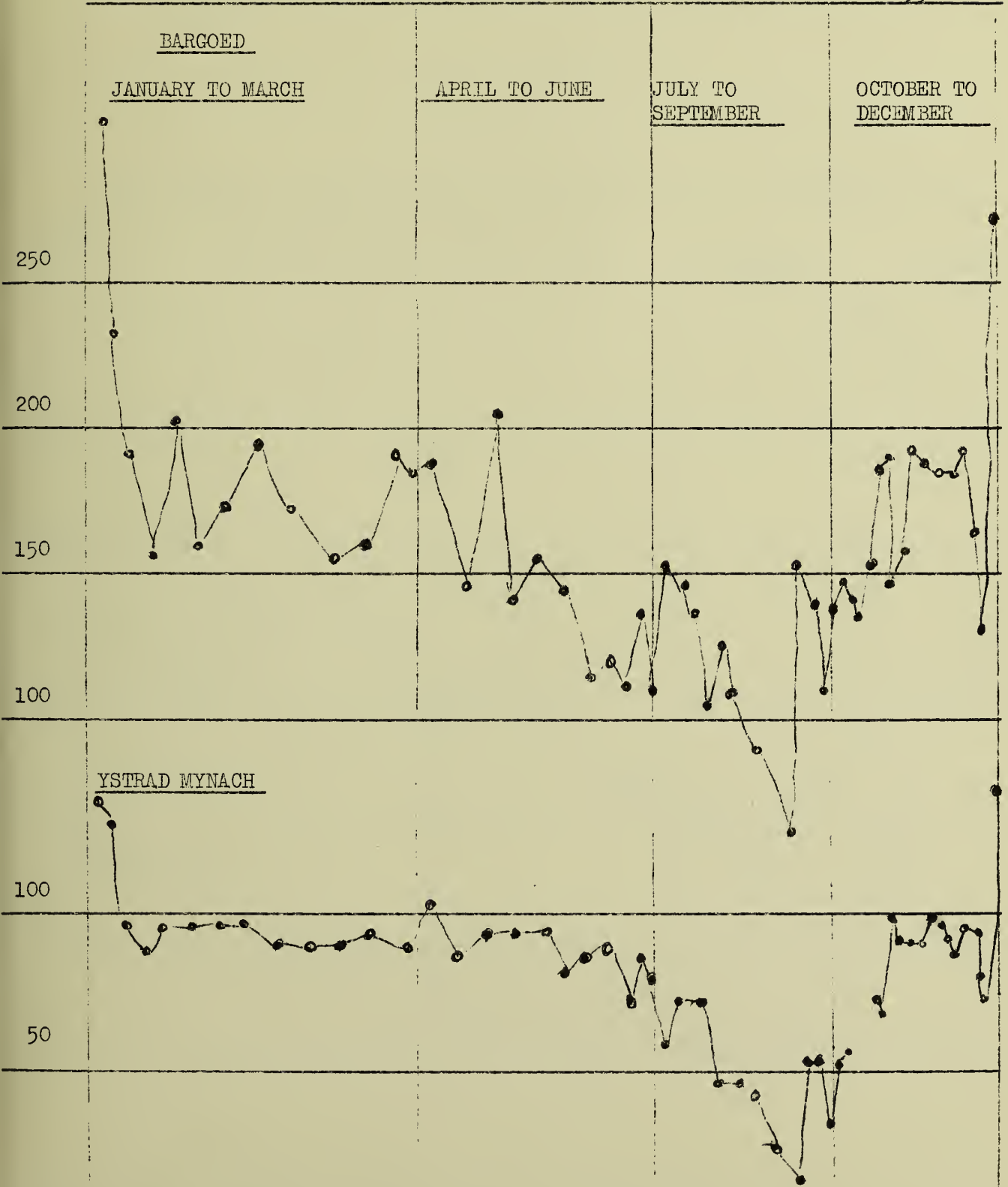
No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

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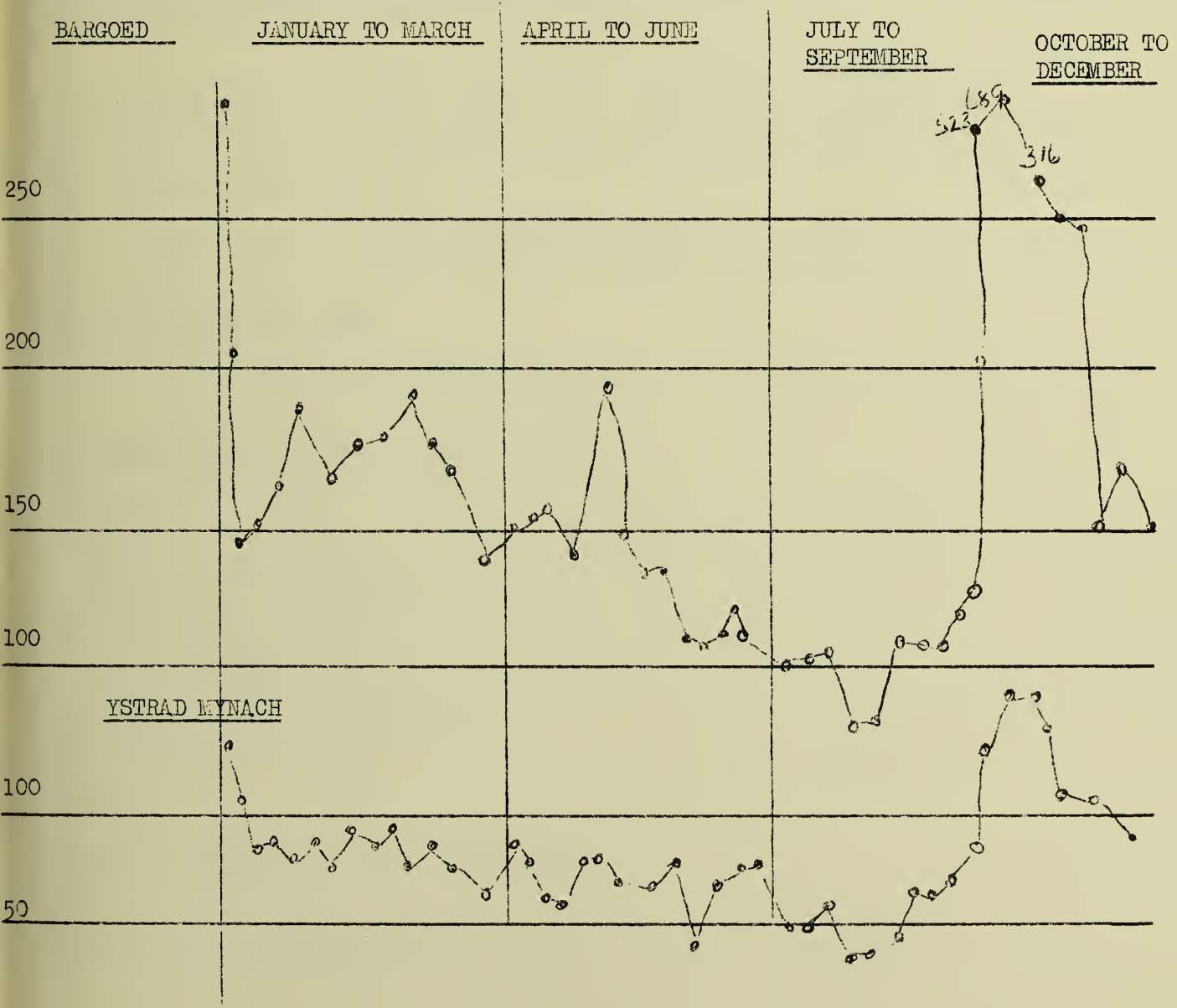
# FRESH SICKNESS CLAIMS MADE UPON THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL INSURANCE 1958



A graph showing sickness claims for 1957 is included for comparison.



FRESH SICKNESS CLAIMS MADE UPON THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL INSURANCE IN 1957





SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ..... 1958

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The following is a report of the routine work of the Department for the year 1958.

The year was, on the whole, uneventful, and the work of the Department proceeded without major incident.

As in former years, a great deal of time must, of necessity, be devoted to the detection and subsequent remedying of conditions of disrepair in connection with dwelling houses, the detection and prevention of nuisances, and inspection of premises concerned with the preparation and sale of foodstuffs, and with food hygiene generally.

The Council's proposals regarding unfit housing conditions at Pontlottyn and other places in the Urban Area also occupied considerable time.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE

As a result of complaints received	- 893
In connection with housing repairs	- 673.

VISITS MADE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

As a result of Notifiable Disease ... ..	39
To Schools ... ..	91
To Piggeries and Stables ... ..	33
To premises without Mains Water Supply ... ..	23
To Common Lodging Houses ... ..	9
To Moveable Dwellings (Tents, Vans, Sheds) ... ..	27
To Cinemas and places of Public Entertainment ... ..	41
To Licensed Houses and Clubs ... ..	89
To premises conducting Offensive Trades ... ..	27
To refuse tips and ashtips ... ..	52
To rear lanes ... ..	119
To Markets ... ..	31

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

To Factories and Bakehouses ... ..	163
To Factories with Mechanical Power ... ..	179
To Factories without Mechanical Power ... ..	53



INSPECTIONS UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 and  
FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

To Dairy Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
To Factories and Bakehouses		...	...	...	...	...	198
To Grocery Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	243
To Butchers' Shops		...	...	...	...	...	177
To Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
To Industrial and School Canteens			...	...	...	...	109
To Ice Creameries	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
To Licensed Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
To Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
To Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
To Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	31

## INSPECTIONS AND VISITS UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS

No. of visits made     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     637

In company with the Council's Housing Manager, it was necessary to make frequent visits of inspection to the various estates of Council owned houses. These joint visits were because of verminous, dirty, or otherwise troublesome tenants.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954, and RENT ACT, 1957

I am indebted to the Clerk of the Council for supplying the following information :-

No. of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	-	55
No. of Certificates of Disrepair granted	-	51
No. of Certificates of Disrepair issued.	-	28
No. of undertakings accepted from owners by the Council	-	23
No. of visits to houses made by Public Health Inspectors in respect of Certificates of Disrepair	-	60





No. of applications for Revocation of Certificates of Disrepair	- 16
No. of such Certificates revoked by the Council	7.

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HOUSING ACTS 1936 and 1957, and Local Government  
(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

Demolitions and Closures

No. of demolition orders respecting individually unfit houses made under the provisions of the above Statutes ... ..	2
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No. of closing Orders made :-

- |  |   |     |
|--|---|-----|
| a) - involving the whole of the premises | - | nil |
| b) - involving part of the premises      | - | nil |

Number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	-	1
Number of persons affected	...	...	...	...	-	2

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (section 92)

Number of defective houses made fit by Informal action	-	224
Number of houses made fit by Formal action	-	79
Number of cases in which Police Court Proceedings were taken	-	6.

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WATER SUPPLY

Except to those dwelling houses and farms where it is impracticable, either because of high altitude or isolated position, a piped supply of water for domestic purposes is generally available to all houses in the Urban Area. In those instances, where a piped supply is not available, every effort is made to safeguard and improve the existing supply.

No. of existing houses provided with a Mains Water Supply in 1958	- 3
No. of houses where water service pipes were renewed in 1958	- 17

Water samples taken for analysis were as follows :-

No of samples taken	-	3
Bacteriological results	-	3 satisfactory, nil unsatisfactory.
Chemical results	-	3 satisfactory, nil unsatisfactory.

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MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND REGULATIONS 1949 - 1954

Since the Milk ( Special Designation)(Specified Areas) Order 1954 was issued, only Heat Treated Milk, or milk from Tuberculin Tested Herds that have complied with the standards set by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is allowed to be sold in the Area.

There are 12 farms producing Tuberculin Tested Milk, and 51 other farms producing Ungraded Milk, which is collected daily and conveyed to Pasteurising Plants situated outside the Area. Here, after heat treatment, it is bottled and distributed to various districts as Sterilised or Pasteurised Milk.

There are 25 registered Milk Retailers in the Area, 5 of whom come into the Area from surrounding districts.

Frequent samples of all grades of milk produced and sold in the Area were taken and sent for laboratory examination. During 1958, 91 samples were sent for examination, the results being as follows :-

No. of samples of T.T. Milk taken	-	11
No. of samples of Pasteurised Milk taken	-	4
No. of samples of Ungraded Milk taken	-	76.

Results of Laboratory Examination are as follows :-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
T. T. Milk	7	4	11
Pasteurised Milk	4	-	4
Ungraded Milk	57	19	76
Totals	68	23	91

Two milk samples were examined for Tubercle Bacilli. Both were negative.

Wrongful use, and abuse, of milk bottles is still commonly observed; and, frequently, we find accumulations of bottles in some private houses and on building sites. The majority of the bottles thus found are in a filthy condition. Such action on the part of customers is to be deeply deplored, especially from the hygienic and "safe food" angle.



I C E C R E A MHeat Treatment Regulations 1947 - 52

There are 10 premises in the Area registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of Ice Cream.

102 premises are registered for the sale or storage of ice cream intended for sale to the public.

There is a substantial increase in the number of Retailers of this article of foodstuff in the Area, the bulk of which today is manufactured by large firms having a nation wide distribution of their products. Today, prepacking of ice cream is almost universal. Despite the great popularity of ice cream, however, it is still to a very large extent a seasonal trade. Many of the smaller shops cease to sell it during the colder months of the year.

Periodical sampling of ice cream is carried out, and I give below details of samples submitted to the Laboratory for examination during 1958 :-

With a satisfactory result	-	21
With an unsatisfactory result	-	4
Total	-	25

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Registered Food Premises.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

23 premises are registered under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture and preparation of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved foods, principally sausages, faggots, and meat pies.

The improvement in Cafes, Restaurants and Shop Premises in the district, very noticeable in the past few years, is still present. Food traders are ready to co-operate in the hygienic display and subsequent sale of their goods, by equipping their stores with frozen foods display cabinets, and easily cleaned plastic topped food counters and tables. The vast number of foodstuffs which are today pre-packed before sale, greatly tends to reduce the risk of food contamination. Some butchery firms in the Area continue to prepack fresh meat in cellophane covered containers - a commendable practice. Cases of carelessness among food handlers however, still occur, and examples of these brought to the attention of the Department during the year include the following :-





Insects found in a bottle of milk;  
 Meat pies and pasties found on two occasions affected with mould.  
 Piece of wood with a protruding nail in it (obviously a portion of  
 the pre-packing bench) found in a tin of imported Apricots.

The public could assist in the hygienic handing and sale of food by immediately drawing to the attention of the shop keeper any infringement of the Food Hygiene Regulations which comes to notice or, alternatively, reporting it to the Public Health Department. It is pleasing to be able to report a welcome improvement to the Bargoed open air market by the provision of a water supply for the use of stall-holders, and the covering of the surface with tarmac.

Principal food premises in the Area are :-

Grocery and Provision Shops	-	111
Bakehouses	-	7
Ice Cream Producers	-	10
Ice Cream Vendors	-	102
Cafes and Restaurants	-	23
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	-	18

There is also a large number of 'parlour' type shops that sell articles of a general character, including foodstuffs of various kinds.

### Supervision of Food Supplies

Articles of food, found unfit for human consumption, are disposed of by burning or by collection by the Council for burial on the Council's refuse tips. They include the following :-

<u>Fresh Meat</u>	-	146 lbs. Beef ; 54 lbs. Ham ; 82 lbs. Mutton.
<u>Canned Meats</u>	-	473 lbs. Ham ; 243 lbs. Corned Beef; 12 lbs. Chicken; 142 lbs. Stewed Steak ; 19 lbs. Pork Roll ; 79 lbs. Beef Loaf ; 58 lbs. Chopped Pork; 36 lbs. Jellied Veal ; 18 lbs. Tongue.
<u>Canned Fruit and Vegetables</u>	-	337 lbs. Tomatoes ; 37 lbs. Strawberries; 138 lbs. Pineapple. 142 lbs. Peaches; 41 lbs. Peas; 36 lbs. Carrots; 9 lb. Plums; 7 lbs. Prunes; 35 lbs. Cherries; 12 lbs. Oranges ; 82 lbs. Apricots ; 270 lbs. Pears ; 112 lbs. Beans; 25 lbs. Grapes; 15 lbs. Grapefruit; 13 lbs. Beetroot.
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	-	47 lbs. Butter; 9 lbs. Cheese; 29 lbs. Soup; 17 lbs. Cream; 12 lbs. Pilchards; 98 lbs. Chocolates and Sweets ; 33 lbs. Cake Mixture; 28 lbs. Rice Pudding; 67 lbs. Milk ; 17 lbs. Salmon ; 14 lbs. Herrings.

Total weight of foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption -

3 tons, 1 cwt., 3 qtrs., 27 lbs.





SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 - 54

There are 11 licensed slaughtermen in the District, all of whom must, as a condition of licensing, possess and use an approved type of stunning apparatus.

There is no registered slaughterhouse in the Urban Area. The bulk of fresh meat is obtained by meat traders from the slaughterhouses at Maesycwmmmer, Tredegar and Brynmawr.

During the year, 42 Cottagers' Pigs were slaughtered and the carcase in each case was examined as to fitness for human consumption.

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LICENSED HOUSES AND CLUBS

Frequent visits to licensed premises throughout the Area, both when the premises were closed to the public, and during the hours of business - were made during the year. Some of the Brewery Firms and Management Committees owning such premises have gone to no little expense in providing better facilities for their patrons, such as more up to date toilet facilities, and better artificial lighting ; the provision of additional toilet facilities for women, and improved furnishings and equipment. During these visits, any infringements of the Regulations which were observed were immediately reported to the owners. This action was subsequently followed up with a notice, or letter, to the Secretary of the appropriate Brewery or Management Committee. Among such communications sent were :-

- 3 requiring renewal or repairs of flushing cisterns to sanitary conveniences.
- 5 cases in which cleansing of internal walls were required.
- 3 instances drawing attention to the inadequate artificial lighting of sanitary conveniences.

On making revisits to these establishments, it was found that all the matters had been rectified.

Number of Public Houses in the Area	-	44
Number of Licensed Clubs in the Area	-	19

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### SCHOOL CANTEENS

Periodical inspection of the 23 school kitchen canteens which serve the 33 schools of the Area takes place. The majority of the food preparing rooms of these premises have been adapted from rooms formerly used as classrooms. Apart from some conditions of overcrowding in the kitchens, mainly in the oldertype of school building, conditions generally are favourable. Tribute must be paid to the kitchen staffs of all schools for the clean and hygienic manner in which food is prepared and cooked, and for the general cleanliness of both school kitchens and kitchen equipment.

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### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The only Common Lodging House in the Area is now at Baldwin Street, Bargoed, and is occupied by an average of 20 persons throughout the year. Inspections of these premises are made from time to time in order to see that the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936, and Byelaws appertaining to such premises are complied with.

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### OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two premises conducting Offensive Trades in the District - one at Bargoed and one at Ystrad Mynach, both carrying on the business of collectors of rags and old iron. No collection of bones is made, thus the possibility of nuisance being caused is reduced to a minimum. Regular inspection of both premises takes place..

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### FACTORIES' ACT, 1937

69 factories of various kinds operate in the Area, mainly engaged in motor repairs, heavy and light engineering, Baking, Joinery, and Woodwork.

Number of Factories to which Sections 2,3,4,5,6,7, apply	- 66
Number of Factories to which Section 7 applies	- 3
Number of inspections made during the year was 114.	

Two Notices were served, for the following reasons :-

- a) - Inadequate lighting of Sanitary Convenience.
- b) - requiring the provision of proper notices indicating sanitary conveniences for the respective sexes.



Employment of Outworkers (Factories' Act, 1937, Section 110)

38 persons are employed as Homeworkers by one Factory in the Area. This employment is of a very light nature and consists of trimming, moulded articles which are manufactured in the main factory.

These persons have all been visited and the premises found suitable for the type of Homework taken in.

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RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

There was a marked increase in the number of complaints received from the public regarding infestation of premises by rats or mice - mostly infestations of a minor nature. This can possibly be accounted for by the publicity and appeals made from time to time to all persons to report the presence of rats or mice to the Council Offices, so that they can be effectively dealt with.

The bi-annual treatment of sewers in the Area was again carried out in May and November.

Below is set out a summary of work performed in 1958:-

	<u>Inspected</u>	<u>Treated</u>	<u>Visits made</u>
Dwelling houses	468	215	1,075
Business premises	54	23	115
Refuse tips	9	9	64
Rivers and Brooks	13	13	53
Collieries	5	-	5
Farms and Agricultural premises	109	-	109

Disinfestation of both Council owned and privately owned houses for vermin is another service carried out; Council properties after joint inspection by the Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager, and private houses at the request of the owner or tenant. In the latter instance, a small charge to cover expenses is made. During 1958, 21 dwelling houses were disinfested, 9 of them on a rechargeable basis.

Complaints of the presence of rats or mice would be less plentiful if the following common sense rules were observed by the general public :-



- a) - discontinue the practice of throwing and dumping refuse and rubbish in unauthorised places ;
- b) - cease throwing stale and waste food about ;
- c) - the provision of regulation dust bins with properly fitting covers for each householder.
- d) - all outbuildings, hen houses etc. with wooden flooring should be constructed at least six inches above ground level, with an open space beneath ;
- e) - animal foodstuffs should be stored in covered metal containers.
- f) - combustible materials should, if possible, be burned on the kitchen fire and not placed in dust bins.
- g) - report immediately to the Public Health Department the presence, or suspected presence of rats or mice.

Yours faithfully,

T. P. THOMAS

Senior Public Health Inspector







